

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAKAR 03495 251117Z

53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01

/156 W

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R 251030Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7421

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASHA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

S E C R E T DAKAR 3495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SG, XA

SUBJECT: ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN AFRICA

REF: NAIROBI 5075, STATE 134229, DAKAR 1988

1. PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1973 CONFLICT, PRESIDENT SENGHOR TRIED TO MAINTAIN NEUTRAL STANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS, THOUGH HIS POSITION MIGHT BEST HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS BENEVOLENT NEUTRALITY WITH ARAB BIAS. WHEN SENEGAL, UNDER PRESSURE ARAB AND AFRICAN CONSENSUS, RELUCTANTLY BROKE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL LAST OCTOBER, SENGHOR REPORTEDLY INDICATED TO ISRAELIS THAT THEY COULD MAINTAIN CONSULATE HERE. THEY CHOSE NOT TO DO SO. IN APRIL, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HIS DESIRE TO ORGANIZE

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 03495 251117Z

ARAB-ISRAELI DIALOGUE AND SAID CERTAIN ARABS AND ISRAELIS -

PRESUMABLY IN THEIR CAPACITY AS PRIVATE CITIZENS - WERE MEETING IN DAKAR FOR THAT PURPOSE. HE ALSO SAID RELATIONS BETWEEN SENEGAL AND ISRAEL CAN RESUME ONLY AFTER PEACE IS CONCLUDED IN MIDDLE EAST.

2. SENGHOR LIKELY TO BE ONE OF FIRST AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND ISRAEL. HE MAY ALREADY BE CONTEMPLATING THIS STEP BUT AWAITING FURTHER PROGRESS IN ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS BEFORE MAKING A DEFINITE MOVE. SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS NOW PROVIDING SIGNIFICANT AID HERE AND THEIR VIEWS MAY EFFECT SENGHOR'S DECISION. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY BELIEVES WE SHOULD LEAVE INITIATIVE TO PARTIES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.
AGGREY

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NNN

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